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LEOMINSTER AND WIGMORE  
RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1942

# Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health ... ... H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.  
(On War Service from 17/7/42)

Acting Medical Officer of Health I. F. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B.,  
(Deputy County Medical Officer) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Area Medical Offices : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95)

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office ... B. J. SCANDRETT  
... (On War Service from 1939)

Temporary Clerk ... ... MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT

Sanitary Inspector ... ... G. E. BULL, M.S.I.V., C.R. San. I.

Municipal Offices, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 257).

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To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the Year 1942.

It has been drawn up in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health may be interim during the period of the war emergency.

My duties as Acting Medical Officer, which commenced on 17th July, 1942, on the departure of your Medical Officer of Health for service with H.M. Forces, have been rendered less onerous by the ready and efficient assistance which has been given me throughout the year by your Sanitary Inspector. It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to him.

I would like to place on record also my appreciation of the pains-taking manner in which the clerk in the Area Office has discharged her duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE,

*Acting Area Medical Officer.*

November, 1943.

## **SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:**

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	94,101
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	3,041
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£44,569
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£192 2 4

### **EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :**

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	15.9
STILLBIRTHS Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	22.0
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	13.0

### **DEATHS FROM Puerperal Causes :**

There were no deaths from puerperal infection in 1942. One death which occurred was attributed to a maternal cause other than sepsis.

### **DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One Year of age :—**

There were eight deaths of infants under one year of age. This corresponds to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 45.2.

## **SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:**

### **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford. During the year this Laboratory came under the direct administration of the Medical Research Council as a War-time measure.

### **CLINICS.**

There are none provided by the Authority. Under County Council Schemes there are two clinics operated within the Leominster Borough at which facilities are available for residents in the Rural District.

(a) A Tuberculosis Dispensary which is held on the first Friday in the month at 2 p.m. in the Cottage Hospital Annexe.

(b) A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which is conducted each Friday at 2 p.m. in the Mission Hall, Etnam Street.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Council Hospital, Hereford.

An Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic, which is organised on a voluntary basis, is held in the Cottage Hospital Annexe.

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I am indebted to Mr. G. R. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following Statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations. The explanatory comments are also his.

### **SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER :** Sampling. 39 samples of water were taken and analysed. 33 were submitted for bacterial examination and six for chemical. Of these, 15 were satisfactory and 24 unsatisfactory. The water supplies of the district are the same as mentioned in previous reports.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :** Nothing of importance occurred during the year. With the exception of the parishes served by sewers the disposal of sewage is effected through septic tanks or by burial in earth.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS :** No complaints of pollution of rivers or streams were received.

**REFUSE COLLECTIONS :** Refuse collection and disposal by tipping is carried out by the Authority in the parishes of Leintwardine, Wigmore and Kingsland with satisfactory results. In the remainder of the district individual householders make their own arrangements.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA : Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders, including the Factories Acts, and under enactments governing meat and foods.

INSPECTIONS :	No.	Informal Notices	Formal Notices	Notices Complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	101	27	—	23
Factories	... ... ...	97	1	—
Milk and Dairies and Cowsheds	248	23	—	23
Bakehouses	... ... ...	14	2	—
Food Premises	... ... ...	88	1	—
Schools	... ... ...	22	1	—
Water Supplies	... ... ...	30	21	—
Infectious Diseases	... ... ...	58	—	—
Knackers Yard	... ... ...	20	1	—
Hop Pickers' Quarters	... ... ...	8	—	—
Miscellaneous visits	... ... ...	2	2	—
	676	87	—	83

#### NOTICES ISSUED :

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Statutory	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### DEFECTS REMEDIED :

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied or in connection with which repairs were carried out.

Roofs	...	...	...	...	15	Pantries provided	...	...	3
Dampness	...	...	...	...	4	Stairs repaired	...	...	6
Floors	...	...	...	...	8	Windows repaired	...	...	6
Drains	...	...	...	...	23	Baths fitted	...	...	2
Wells	...	...	...	...	21	Cesspools constructed	...	...	2
New Sinks fitted	...	...	...	...	9	Conversion of privies	...	...	3
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	5	Wash coppers repaired	...	...	2
Plastered	...	...	...	...	10	Chimneys repaired	...	...	5

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining certain materials, for example timber, there is an increasing difficulty in having repairs effected.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES:** There are no common lodging houses in the district.

**FACTORIES:** 67 Inspections have been made at the two factories with mechanical power and at these without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small, generally only two or three persons being employed. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily. All of the four notices served during the year were for linewashing.

**CAMPING SITES:** There are no registered camping sites in the district. Where camping does occur it is only for a short period.

**BED BUGS:** There were no cases of bed bug infection reported during the year.

## **SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

### **INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.**

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	... 56
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	... 104
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ...	... 27

### **ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.**

#### **Proceedings under Public Health Acts :**

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	... Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ...	... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	... Nil

#### **VAN DWELLINGS :**

There are only four van dwellings in the district; these are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine. Each has its own water supply and drainage.

## **SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

88 inspections were made at the various food shops in the district. Four notices were served for limewashing and these were complied with.

Condemned as Unfit for Human consumption :

Meat	2 cwt. 2 qtrs.
Tinned Meat	30 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	20 lbs.
Tinned Milk	60 lbs.
Oranges	120 lbs.
Eggs	60 lbs.
Butter	56 lbs.
Bacon	38 lbs.

### **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :—**

Central slaughtering is carried out at the Borough of Leominster Slaughter House. For this reason very little meat is condemned in this district. The small amount that was condemned during the year was on account of putrefaction.

## **SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

58 inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease, and disinfection was carried out at 34 houses.

### **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1942 :**

During 1942 a total of 210 notifications of Infectious Disease were received. Measles provided the largest number, namely 110; and the second highest figure was in respect of Acute Pneumonia, of which there were 25 cases in the district during the year.

Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, the three diseases for which the Council has made arrangements for treatment in hospital, were of relatively infrequent occurrence. There were fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever, four of Diphtheria and three of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

All but one of the fourteen cases of Dysentery were notified from a Residential Nursery. The infection was of a mild character.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum was reported on one occasion and Puerperal Pyrexia on four occasions.

### ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE:

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT												Over 40	Total	
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40			
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	2	1	3	1	2	—	15
Whooping Cough	...	1	1	1	4	3	4	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	23
Diphtheria includ.															
Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4
Measles	...	...	—	3	4	3	0	15	12	27	38	4	2	1	116
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenza)	...	—	—	1	3	1	—	1	3	1	1	3	3	8	25
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	5	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	5	

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Particulars of the number of children immunised from the commencement of the campaign in 1941 until the end of 1942 are provided in the accompanying table. The percentages of treated children in the two age groups in the district are also given.

Number	Percentage of group	Between 5 and 15 years of age	
		Number	Percentage of group
248	44.46%	1,131	88.19%

### TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1942 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 26 males and 24 females who normally reside within the district.

During the year 13 new cases were notified, 11 on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, five deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred.